

NUMISMA.

PUBLISHED BI MONTHLY. ED. FROSSARD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

NO. 3.

MAY, 1881.

VOL. 5.

THE CURIOSITY CABINET.

Published by WM. P. BROWN dealer in Postage and Revenue Stamps, Coins, etc., 145 Nassau street, New York,

J. W. HASELTINE,

1225 Chestnut street, Philadelphia Pa., dealer in Coins, Medals, Curiosities, Postage Stamps, etc. Auction Sales of Coins.

J. COLVIN RANDALL

1905 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., Gold, Silver and Copper Coins. Silver Coins of any date a Specialty.

S. H. & H. CHAPMAN,

Importers of Ancient Greek and Roman Coins; dealers in American Coins and Medals, 2043 Tower St., Philadelphia, Pa.

CHAS. STEIGERWALT, 130 E. King St., Lancaster, Pa. Old and rare coins bought, sold, and exchanged. Collections purchased.

CARL W. BACHMAN, Box 1115, Seneca Falls, N. Y. Collector and dealer in Colonial, U. S. and Foreign Coins, Confederate Notes and Bonds, etc. Prices for stamp.

GEO. W. COGAN & CO., (Successors to Ed. Cogan,) dealers in Coins, Medals, Numismatic Books, Paper Money, Etc., 344 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

LYMAN H. LOW, Numismatist. Specialty of Coins, Medals, and Tokens in Copper, Brass and Nickel, Box 1008 New York City.

ED. FROSSARD, Irvington, N. Y., wants the following varieties of '94 Cents, as per Dr. Maris' list. Must be fine to uncirculated condition: Nos. 1, 4, 7, 8, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 34, 41, 43, and subsequent Nos.

GEO. T. Mc COMBE, 198 Ontario St., Lockport, N. Y.; dealer in Coins, Medals, etc. Coins bought, sold, and exchanged. New price list of U. S. Silver and Copper Coins, 10 cents.

WANTED.—Descriptions of Medals, Tokens and Store Cards, relating to Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Pa. If for sale, state condition and price. George W. Rode, 49, 5th Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

WANTED—Early dates of American Gold Coinage in fine to uncirculated condition. Address ED. FROSSARD, Irvington, N. Y.

GEO. A. LEAVITT & CO., Auctioneers, Clinton Hall, Astor Place, and Art Galleries, 807, Broadway, New York; for the sale by auction of Books, Paintings, Engravings, Coins, and all kinds of Literary and Art Property.

M. HEILBRONNER, 310 W. 4th Street, N. Y. Collector and Dealer in Rare Coins, Medals, Tokens. Price List for Stamp. Correspondence solicited.

COLLECTION OF ROMAN AND ENGLISH COINS for sale, Silver and Bronze, about 250. Price \$125; send for list. W. J. McHaffie, Brantford, Ont.

REVISED COIN CATALOGUE showing the prices I pay for rare American Coins together with a specimen copy of the "St. Louis Philatelist" sent post free on receipt of 12 cents in stamps. E. F. Gambs, Coin and Stamp Dealer, 621 South Fifth Street, St. Louis, Mo.

S. K. HARTZFEL, NUMISMATIST,

1713, Park Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. Apply, inclosing stamp, for latest price list.

HENRY G. SAMPSON, Cor. Broadway and Fulton Sts., N. Y., Dealer in American Coins and Medals, rare stamps, Centennial combination printing presses, etc.

GEO. M. ELLIOTT, 48 CENTRAL ST., LOWELL, MASS.—Rare Coins, Continental Paper Money, Rare Books, Town Histories, and genealogies of Families. Priced catalogue of rare books 25cts. post paid.

BANGS & CO., 739 741 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.—Auction Sales of Books, Bronzes, Coins, etc. Part I and II Anthon's Cabinet, printed priced catalogues for sale at \$1.50 per copy.

WANTED.—Rare dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, half dimes, cents, half cents, pattern pieces; wanted Numismatic works especially such as relate to American Coinage. Address, Ed. Frossard, Numismatist, Irvington, N. Y.

GEORGE H. LOVETT, 192 Broadway, N. Y., Room 13, Medallist and Engraver. Collectors of Medals invited to call. New medals, Masonic and political tokens, etc., for sale, singly or in quantities.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

Price, \$2 per volume, in advance. JEREMIAH COLBURN, 18 Somerset street, Boston, Mass.

CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL,

Published quarterly, at \$1.50 per annum, payable in advance. Subscriptions received by Geo. Holmes, Box 1,310, Montreal.

A. B. CARMAN, East Richland, O. Publisher of the American Numismatic Herald, 10 cents per annum. Correspondence solicited.

M. F. BLASY, 56 9th Ave., New York, Numismatist, Dealer in rare U. S. and Foreign Coins, Medals and Tokens. Paying prices of U. S. Coins for Stamp.

C. L. STAKE, 223 South Jefferson St., Dayton, O., dealer in U. S. Coins. A revised price list issued monthly, and sent free for one year, on receipt of 12 cents to cover postage.

GASTON FEUARDENT & CO., 30 Lafayette Place, New York. Importers of Antique Coins, Gems, Bronzes, etc.

CHAS. H. WRIGHT, Numismatist, 1675 3rd Avenue, New York. Specialty, Early English and Irish Coins. Correspondence solicited.

WANTED.—Fine Specimens of Irish Tokens of the 17th Century, and Varieties of the Gun Money. C. H. WRIGHT, 1675 3rd Ave., N. Y.

MILLER'S Silver and Copper Coin Catalogue with illustrations of the Large and Small Eagle varieties of old U. S. Coins on receipt of 10c. Address W. K. Miller, Reading, Pa.

C. E. MAKEPEACE, Watertown, N. Y. Dealer in U. S. Silver and Copper Coins. Old and Rare Coins bought and sold. Correspondence solicited and Catalogue free.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

To European Postage Stamp Dealers.

WANTED.—Rare Uncancelled Foreign Postage Stamps, in Complete Sets, for a private collection. Address Ed. Frossard, Irvington, N. Y.

NUMISMATIC HEADQUARTERS. Mason & Co., 32 No. 13th St., Phila., Pa. Dealers in Coins, Medals, Stamps, Autographs, Indian Relics, Early American Imprints, etc.

1881 CATALOGUE SHOWING PRICES we pay and ask for Coins, 25 cents. *Colu Collectors' Herald*, \$1.00 per annum. Vol. III 1881, now ready. Mason & Co., 32 No. 13th St., Phila.

WANTED. Young Collectors to take at lowest prices the duplicates in most coin departments of an old Collector. F. M. B., care Bangs & Co., 739 Broadway, N. Y.

T. B. BENNELL, 304 Broadway, New York, Dealer in Ancient and Foreign Rare Coins, Medals and Tokens of every description on hand.

From the Liberal Freemason.

MASONIC MEDALS,

(CONTINUED FROM LAST NUMBER.)

It is to suggest to Masonic antiquaries the feasibility of making collections of Medals, which are equally interesting and more easily gathered, that this article is written. The formation of such a cabinet would do more to stimulate an interest in the Order, on the part of its possessor, than almost any other pursuit; it would surprise one who should undertake it, to see how the field would open out before him. The cosmopolitan character of our institution has no more striking evidence, than this. In England, medals in honor of Grand Masters,—two of different Princes of Wales, others of the Duke of Sussex, of the Duke of York, and of various members of the Royal Family, King William IV, among them, would attract his attention. Among French medals he would find those of Louis XVIII, of Cambaceres, of the Count Murair, of the Duke of Chartres, and other prominent statesmen, who have honored and been honored by the Fraternity. If he turned his attention to German medals, he would find several of Prince Frederick, of

the Duke of Brunswick, of Zinnendorf, the founder of the Grand-Land Lodge of Germany, of Nettleblatt and Donnersmarck, among their nobles, and of Klopstock and Wieland and other famous poets. Sweden has struck medals of many of her kings and Grand Masters of the Order; Belgian, Holland and Austria also have done the same. But it is not personal medals alone which will attract him.

The Archbishop of Mechlin excommunicated Belgium Masons, and they commemorated his attack by a medal, whereon is depicted a viper biting a file; the Grand Orient of the Netherlands was established, and a beautiful silver medal was struck in its honor; the Senate of Hamburg forbade Masonic meetings, and forthwith a medal appeared which displays their faith that while human passion may war against them, the face and favor of the Supreme is unchanging. The Templars elect a Grand Master and his portrait is preserved on an early French medal. An alliance between the Grand Orients of Italy and France is concluded, and a beautiful silver medal displaying the fasces and other significant types, commemorates the happy event; or again we find that many Lodges reward faithful and distinguished services of their members by a medal. Bottiger, a learned Egyptologist, reaches his eightieth birthday, and his Lodge strikes a medal to commemorate it; the master of a Lodge in Hamm sustains the dignity for a quarter of a century, and his Lodge perpetuates the remembrance by a medal. We might point out a hundred occasions of interest, the knowledge of which would have passed from the memory of Masonry, but for the indestructible memento afforded by a medal. Then, too, the study of these issues, as regard the emblems they bear, is full of interest; on many we find symbols that are eloquent to those who read them, the three great lights, the letter G, the

Freemasons' arms, or their various working tools are grouped upon the planchet. The simple emblems of the Lodge are mingled with the more occult symbols of the "high" degrees, and we have the banners, and the double-headed eagle of the Scottish rite, the serpent of that of Memphis, the rosy cross, the seven-branched candlestick of Swedish Masonry, and many more which time and space would fail us, should we attempt to mention them.

There are few collectors in America, so far as we know, at present, and yet among the few are to be found some who possess medals of the greatest rarity, and of a value which would surprise those who have given no attention to this subject: In the cabinet of a Boston collector, we have seen the medal once worn by Henry Price, first Grand Master of Massachusetts; in that of one in New York, is a rare medal of Washington, of brass, the size of a dollar, which cost him \$25.00 at an auction sale. The same collector has one of Franklin struck by the Lodge of the Nine Muses, and not much larger than a quarter of a dollar, for which he paid nearly thirty dollars. In the collection of a gentleman in Jersey City, is a bronze medal bearing on it the bust of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence, struck in the early part of the present century, which commemorates an alliance between "Blue Masonry" and the Royal Arch, which has passed from the knowledge of English historians. A western collector has several rare medals of the Duke of Sussex, which are not mentioned by any English writer. Some time ago, a New York dealer obtained a very scarce medal of Martin Folkes, once Deputy Grand Master of England, which, most remarkable to state, was cut at Rome, by Hammerani, the famous engraver of the Papal mint, and struck there just after the Pope had excommunicated the institution; there are but

few of these in existence. Such are some of the more interesting pieces.

It cannot be expected that a valuable cabinet of Masonic medals should be formed in a day, or without any outlay of labor or money, but we undertake to say that no one who should begin such a task, if the pleasure of gathering a cabinet can be called a task, would ever have reason to regret it from any point of view, pecuniary or otherwise. On the contrary it would grow more valuable with time, and increase his Masonic knowledge and interest.

In Europe, the Grand Orient of France has a very fine collection; the Provincial Lodge at Rostock, Germany, has another. The Leipsic Lodges, especially, have extremely valuable cabinets containing many rare pieces. Pythagoras Lodge, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has probably the best of any Lodge in this country. It may not be known generally, but the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has quietly begun a collection, the gift of a few liberal members, which is already very creditable, and which promises to be as much superior to that of other sister bodies, as its magnificent library has become, under the care of P. . . G. . , M. . . Nickerson, and his enthusiastic helpers; this will soon be ready for exhibition, and though the intrinsic value of many of the pieces is apparently small, for quite a large proportion are in bronze and copper, yet the numismatic and Masonic value is very great. The earliest gleaner in a field like this will doubtless find the choicest pieces to select from. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has likewise begun a collection, and the Grand Lodge of New York has gathered a few pieces. These are, it is true, "straws," yet they may be proof of a wind blowing in a heretofore unsuspected way.

HERMES.

NUMISMA.

ED. FROSSARD, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

Editor and Proprietor.

PRICE 16 CTS. PER COPY.

50 CTS. PER ANNUM.

ADVERTISEMENTS, LIMITED TO 3 LINES, 25c. each insertion.

Special advertisements in this column. \$1 per insertion.

TAKE NOTICE.—We wish to purchase entire collections, large or small, of United States and Colonial Coins, Pattern Pieces, Store Cards, Medals, Etc. Immediate cash advances on consignments. Address Ed. Frossard, Irvington, N. Y.

SONNET.

ON SEEING BECKER'S FORGERIES.

What spirit ruled the cunning of thy hand?
Was it some ghost from old Plutonian shades?
A Goddess wandering from the Grecian glades?
Or Roman warrior, by great deeds made grand?
Here, wrought by thee, dread Mars doth furlous stand;
And shine again the legions' gleaming blades;
And fair Persephone, with all her maids,
Wanders along the bright Sicilian sand.
A counterfeit, and yet the olden years,
And ancient cast of thought and face are here,
The antique garb, the great, ambitious thought
To rule the world, despite a nation's tears:
Ah, wizard, all the Cæsars held thee dear,
And helped the base deception by thee wrought.

THOS. S. COLLIER.

THE OSWEGO MEDAL.

THE COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF N. Y., }
April 15th, 1881. }

Mr. Ed. Frossard:

In an address delivered at the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the American Numismatic and Archæological Society, March 19, 1878, I had occasion, in speaking of the "Trésor de Numismatique et de Glyptique," to make the following remarks in relation to the vast series of medals, coins, etc., therein described and represented:—"As far as my observation has extended, no coin or medal which may be called American, either in fact or in reference, is represented in the whole series, with the exception of one, (Med. Franc.,

Part III., Pl. xlvii., No. 2,) which I shall call, from our American point of view, the "Oswego Medal." The writer of the accompanying account, (p. 46,) is so ignorant as to say that Oswego is in Europe. The medal in question is so very remarkable, and has been, to my knowledge, so entirely neglected by American writers and collectors, that I may perhaps be pardoned for giving a slight account of it here. Another representation of it may be found in the very rare work on "Obsidional Pieces," by Tobieson Duby, Paris, 1786, Pl. iv., No. 5. This book, which is among the recent additions to the Astor Library, furnishes, besides, a correct account of the medal. It was struck in 1758, in gold and silver, by the celebrated Count Lully, commander of the French troops in India, after his capture of Fort St. David, and bears the head of Louis XV., with the title "Empereur of the World"—ORBIS IMPERATOR. To justify this flattery, we have, on the reverse, four forts, each with its name, each presumably in a different continent, and all captured by the French in the beginning of the French and Indian, or Seven Years', War. The names are, in addition to that of Fort St. David, WESEL, OSWEGO, PORT MAHON. It certainly requires much latitude of interpretation to qualify Port Mahon (Minorca) to represent Africa, but as to the claim of Oswego to typify, or at least suggest America, there can be no cavil. It is a most interesting memorial of the Colonial history of our State, and *I have long been on the watch for it, without being able to procure it, or to hear of its being in any one's possession.* Of this very desirable piece I have now, through your kindness and enterprise, obtained a fine impression in silver, the correspondent in Europe, from whom you received it, assuring you, and I believe with perfect truth, that this specimen is the first one that he has met with in twenty years.

It gives me great satisfaction to add this medal to my Franco-American series. I look upon it as the earliest numismatic memorial on which appears a name belonging to the present State of New York—the earliest, I mean, of undoubted authenticity. This capture of Oswego, in 1756, one of the achievements of Montcalm, ranks among the great but delusive victories which, in the beginning of the French and Indian War, seemed to promise to France the assured possession of the vast region between the Alleghanies and the Rocky Mountains, already hers by the right of discovery and exploration. The "Gloriam Regni" (see *American Journal of Numismatics*, vol. xi. p. 49); the Family Medal of Louis xiv., of 1693, given to French officers and Indian chiefs in Canada (id. p. 93); the beautiful and ingenious series of the eight French-American Colonial Jetons, 1751-1758 (id. vol. xiii. p. 67); and, finally, the Oswego Medal, which is my chief subject at present, form collectively, in themselves, a little cabinet which any one may be proud to own, and which would make a worthy set of illustrations to Parkman's brilliant volumes.

As to the rarity and cost of these pieces, I should say, in the first place, that they do not seem to be appreciated as they deserve. The "Gloriam Regni" appears occasionally at sales and commands but a moderate price, e. g., Holland Sale, November, 1878, \$18.50. The Family Medal of Louis xiv., on the other hand, can always be obtained from the Musée Monétaire, at a cost little exceeding its metallic value. These are the only dies of the pieces under discussion which are certainly known to exist. But in a catalogue of an approaching sale by Adolph Weyl, Berlin, I find appended to the names of several of the Colonial Jetons, the letters: (n. A.), which I interpret, "*nener abschlag*," or re-strike, and hence infer that he, or some one else, has these dies.

But in value and rareness the Oswego Medal stands in my opinion pre-eminent above all. I do not believe that the dies (of which there must have been two pairs, judging from the Tresor and Tobiesen Duby) are now anywhere to be found; and I conclude by repeating my sincere thanks to you, my dear sir, for putting me in possession of this very uncommon and covetable relic.

Yours, with much regard,

CHARLES E. ANTHON.

REVIEWS OF NUMISMATIC PUBLICATIONS.

The Numismatic Directory, for 1881. Published by Robert W. Mercer, Cincinnati. (1. Beside a rather good, though very incomplete list of Coin collectors, this 80 page 8vo. volume contains the lists of membership of seven American and one foreign Numismatic Societies; a short but interesting article on the Mormon gold coinage; an authentic and complete list of J. A. Bolen's medals, cards, and copies of rare American coins, and several articles of interest by E. Mason, Jr., Dr. Robert Morris, etc. At the end of the volume an onerous looking skull and cross bones, with heading "Dead Beats Beware," will no doubt awake a strong desire on the part of several coin dealers of sending in a few names to help fill up. Price of directory \$1 00.

A description of 268 varieties of U. S. Cents 1816-57, in the collection of Frank D. Andrews, Vineland, N. J.. 1881. 54 page, 12 mo. pamphlet. Mr. Andrews having become interested in the minute differences of dies of the few varieties issued during this period describes those found in his collection. As on the average about ten pairs of dies were used each year, it is probable that not more than about two-thirds have thus far been identified by him, and that to complete the work a new edition will be required. A

very flattering review of this work appeared in the April number of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, and a strong contrast of its excellencies when compared with the deficiencies of the Monograph of U. S. Cents and Half Cents is drawn by the learned reviewer, but as the author of the Monograph, except for a few of the earlier dates, never attempted more than a description of the marked varieties of U. S. Cents, the article cannot be considered in the light of fair criticism, especially since "W," before publishing his review of Mr. Andrews' work bought up the entire unsold edition. This feature gives the article the appearance of a clever advertisement, and as such it was eminently successful, copies which were originally intended for free distribution among friends or to be sold at 25c., having since brought \$4 50, while the few remaining ones are still being placed at equally high figures. Mr. Andrews has our thanks for a copy kindly sent us.

We have received the revised price list of American Coins of Mr. M. F. Blazy, 56, 9th Ave., New York—one of the best thus far published price 5 cents; also Mr. C. L. Stake's Revised Coin list for April; (see his adv.) also, Price Current of U. S. Coins, published by T. B. Bennell, 304 Broadway, New York, price 10 cents; and finally the Catalogue of U. S. Silver and Copper Coins for sale by G. T. McCombe, Lockport, N. Y., price 10 cents. Parties having books on American general and local histories, genealogies, old calendars and Americana in general, will do well to send 25 cents to Geo. M. Elliott, 48 Central Street, Lowell, Mass., for his list of prices paid by him. A. M. Smith's Illustrated Guide Vol. I., No. 4, contains the second and last part of the reprint of Maris' Work, on the 94 cents, begun in No. 3 of the same vol. It seems that Maris, contrary to general expectations, has added nothing to his previous labors in this field, the list closing with No. 43.

COIN SALES.

March 2. Collection of Coins, etc.; also a fine lot of 36 Medical Medals. 500 lots. Catalogue by S. H. & H. Chapman. Sold by Bangs & Co., N. Y.

March 7. Miscellaneous Coins and Medals, chiefly American. 288 lots. Catalogue by Mr. Joseph B. Burleigh, Jr. Sold by Wm. Seemuller, Baltimore, Md.

March 16-18. Coins, Medals, Fractional Currency, Curiosities, etc. 1866 lots. Catalogue by J. W. Haseltine. Sold by Bangs & Co., N. Y. This catalogue comprised among other desiderata the entire collection of 1794 cents made by Mr. Haseltine during the past years, and embraced all the varieties described by Maris except Nos. 30, 34, 41, and 43, besides several others not mentioned, in all, with duplicates, 52 cents of this date. Maris' No. 8 brought \$12.25; No. 10, \$13.75; No. 15, \$6.75; No. 26, \$7.50; No. 29, \$8.00; No. 37, \$12.60; the starred variety, \$21.00; but these were all in superior condition, a few of them perfect gems.

March 23 and 24. Collection of Gold, Silver, and Copper Coins. 1079 lots. Catalogue by Ed. Frossard. Sold by Bangs & Co. The Grant unique mules, the Beeker forgeries, and cents, generally brought very low prices, while the U. S. gold; rare U. S. silver and Masonic medals sold at excellent figures.

March 29 and 30. U. S. Silver and Copper Coins, Postage and Revenue Stamps, etc.; the property of T. H. Keeler, Buchanan, Mich. 699 lots. Catalogue by S. H. Morgan. Sold by D. F. Heary, Pittsburgh, Pa.

March 29-31. Coins, Medals, Relics, Old Engravings, Numismatic Books, Autograph Letters, etc.; the collection of B. F. Harrison, Esq., of Virginia. 1105 lots. Catalogue by Dr. Geo. W. Massamore. Sold by Wm. Seemuller, Baltimore, Md.

April 4-9. Coins, Medals, Tokens, Reminders of the Rebellion, Indian Stone Im-

plements, Postage Stamps, etc., etc., for the greater part the former property of Mr. Wm. Clogston, of Springfield, Mass. Part I., 2556, and Part II., 1310 lots. Catalogue by W. E. Woodward. Sold by Bangs & Co. That part of the collection containing the Rebellion mementoes was of magnitude and importance, but no public interest apparently exists for such objects at the present time—the 7,352 war envelopes, for instance, bringing only about one cent each, or some \$80 for the lot. During the sale a printed caricature of a prominent numismatist represented in the act of drawing a \$5,000 cheque with a bank book showing a cash balance of 15 cents, was secretly distributed on the tables and about the room by the Wizard of Roxborough. The editor coming in at the very nick of time captured a few copies, which he now offers for sale at the reasonable price of \$4.50 each (postage extra).

April 8. Coins and Stamps. 520 lots. Catalogue by Scott & Co. Sold by G. A. Leavitt & Co., Clinton Hall, New York.

April 25. Cabinet of Archæology; Indian and Mound Stone Implements; Aztec remains, etc., etc., the collection of Mr. M. F. Savage. 269 lots. Sold by G. A. Leavitt & Co., Clinton Hall, New York.

April 25. Miscellaneous Coins and Medals; about 250 lots, said to have been very poorly catalogued by a Mr. — Ebenezer, and sold by Thomas & Son, Philadelphia. We have not seen this catalogue, and will be obliged to any Philadelphia correspondent for a copy.

April 27 and 28. The collection of American and English Coins and Medals of Mr. L. F. Montanye, of New York. 1282 lots. Catalogue by H. G. Sampson and sold by Bangs & Co. The catalogue was compiled with much care and accuracy; the coins in general were from select purchases at the best sales since 1876, and comprised many Americana of the

highest rarity, especially in the silver, the cents, the Colonial coins, the Washington and the Pattern pieces. Lack of space prevents our giving an extended review, and we would advise all who have not already done so to procure a priced catalogue, four of which are in our hands for sale at 75 cents each.

COMING SALES.

Mr. Ed. Frossard will have a sale of Ancient and American Coins on the 27th of this month.

We regret that Mr. Marvin has sold his collection of Masonic medals just at the time, too, when the strong interest created by his magnificent work was beginning to draw the attention of collectors to this class of medals. The purchaser of the collection intends to offer them at auction, probably not before September.

CRITICISM OF COIN SALES.

It would certainly be unfair to expect Coin catalogues to be entirely free from errors of description, statements of condition, degree of rarity, etc., for the best informed and most experienced frequently fall short in all these particulars, but what it is proper to expect is that the cataloguer, who is too frequently only an interested seller, shall not wilfully make statements which he must know are untrue. When, for instance, a man, in enumerating his property, states that the former owner of a collection "warrants that in the whole series but a single piece of doubtful authority can be found," while the aforesaid owner really never made any such statement, when he catalogues coins as fine and uncirculated which he knows are wretchedly poor, or when he "conjectures" a rare Colonial to be genuine which he bought for a cast, or persists in placing counterfeit 1799 Cents in his sales cataloguing them as genuine—then most col-

lectors will agree that the time for criticism has come and that the right of censure must assert itself. We have no desire to drift into personal squabbles with this man or that—we wish in fact to avoid all personal recriminations; our paper is intended to be a medium of communication, of interest, and of self-culture among the Coin collectors of this country, not of strife and personalities, but this much we will assert: The editor of this paper will not be deterred from performing what he considers his duty, either by threats, scurrilous letters, or by anonymous pamphlets and sheets, and in this position believes himself sustained by the intelligent, respectable and honorable elements which make up the great body of the collecting fraternity. The desire to keep up a high standard of excellence in the descriptions of coins and medals, to lift Numismatics to its true level, and to discourage all charlatan like tricks of the trade, by which inexperienced collectors are made to pay the highest possible prices for the poorest possible coins, is one shared alike by the older and experienced as well as the younger but well informed collectors of coins and medals. Numisma is with them, is with every honest effort to do full justice to a collection, but is against wilful errors, deceptive statements, and unwarranted assertions.

NEW YORK, April 16, 1881.

To the Editor of Numisma:

In glancing over the English portion of the coins sold April 4th to 9th, several misstatements and overdescriptions in the catalogue were disclosed. Believing that an enumeration of them will be but just to those collectors who were not there to see for themselves, a list of such as were most glaring is appended.

No. 16. Bird on a Tree, of Athlon, March. An Irish token of the 17th Century, and in *very* poor condition. (Boyne, No. 42.)

85 and 86. Very poor.

87. A clipped half groat and extremely poor.

89. Henry V. and very poor.

90 and 91. Both poor.

93 and 94. Both poor.

95 Was a hammered sixpence, not the milled.

96 Not the half-groat, but the threepence, and poor.

97. Very poor.

108. An impression in silver of the Irish half-penny. There is no such coin as a William III. shilling with rev. harp-crowned, implying that it is an Irish one. The description in the catalogue shows a culpable ignorance of English numismatics and an injustice to the owner of the collection, for the coin is *rare*.

142. Poor and *common*.

145. Poor.

150. Certainly fine, but *common* even then.

152. Poor (from the same dies as 108.)

154. Date, 1724.

158. *Not* uncirculated, and not rare if it were so.

161. A counterfeit.

165. Poor.

166. A counterfeit.

170. Poor.

181. A counterfeit of the Irish half penny of same date and poor.

A. M. A. S.

NUMISMATIC GOSSIP.

Mr. Lyman H. Low is the possessor of the finest 1804 perfect die cent ever seen by us. It was discovered by him in a small collection of otherwise worthless coins.—“To deprecate” in the sense used by the editor of the best coin paper on this planet is not English; besides, the man referred to is not our brother, only a sort of coin collectors' uncle. —Mr. Charles Steigerwalt showed us at the time of the Montanye sale a pair of extremely fine half dollars, dates 1796 and 1797, for sale by him —The Montanye sale brought out a number of old-time buyers, like Parmelee, Levick, Wood and others. The attendance, in fact, was the best we have seen for a long time —The editor of NUMISMA is desirous to complete his set of 1794 cents. For list of varieties wanted see advertisement.—The so-called Goloid sets of 1879 have gone up after all. \$15 per set offered by us, and none to be had.



R

